



# Play and Prep Preschool Newsletter

December 2020

## News from the Directors

We hope you had a relaxing Thanksgiving Break with your loved ones. We are ready to welcome our students back after the break.

As you know, in November the classes made bird feeders and in December we want to help shelter animals. We will have a collection basket outside during class drop off times Dec. 1-15th. See the wish list below for the Geauga Animal Shelter:

<https://www.rescuevillage.org/donate/shelter-wishlist-items/>

You may notice that there are new vinyl coverings on the pavilion. With three sides partially covered, the pavilion will be more hospitable for school use in the colder weather.

Please remember to send in labeled waterproof gloves, hat, and winter boots as the weather starts to get colder. We would like students to be prepared for the outdoors. If you would like the gear to stay at school, please let your child's teacher know. If your child has borrowed clothes after a particularly muddy or wet day at school, kindly wash and return the borrowed items.

Jody Halley & Emily Johnson

## Important Dates

Nov. 30/ Dec. 1 - School resumes

Dec. 15,16,or 17- Individual classroom parties

Pine and Sweetgum –Tuesday; Willow and Beech – Wednesday;  
Oak and Maple -Thursday

Dec .21-Jan. 3- No School for Winter Break

Jan. 4/ Jan. 5- School resumes

Jan. 4 Registration starts for current/alumni families

Jan. 11 Registration starts for new families

We have added a drop box on the playground fence to the left of the entrance doors for you to submit monthly tuition. Tuition is due the 1st of each month to avoid a late fee.

Check out our fundraising page at **Mabel's Labels** at [www.mabelslabels.com](http://www.mabelslabels.com) and click on Support a Fundraiser then find Play and Prep Preschool in the school listing. Play and Prep will receive a percentage from your order.

**Heinen's Tasteful Rewards School Program.** Register Play and Prep with your Tasteful Reward Card at [heinens.com/schools](http://heinens.com/schools), In-store at the Customer Service Desk, or call Customer Relations Department at 1-855-475-2300 ext. 2337. Past participants must **RE-SELECT** Play and Prep by logging in to their Tasteful Rewards profile.

## Pre K Class - Oak



It is hard to believe November has come to an end, but I am very excited about December! In addition to learning letters [J, K, L] and numbers [10, 11, 12], the students will have many opportunities to explore winter themes. We have set up a Candy Cane Lane in the dramatic play area where kids will practice their math skills (counting, sorting and measuring). We will also spend the month using our senses in different "Peppermint Centers". We have several student-led activities to explore which will encourage their autonomy and creativity. The students will participate in numerous science experiments as visual aids to reinforce their understanding of

Winter weather, including the concepts of both melting and freezing. I know your children and I will have a terrific month of December!

Emily Harrigan

### **Pre K Class - Willow**



November sure did pass us by in a hurry while we were busy learning about Autumn, family and pets, and Thanksgiving. I am quite sure December will go by in the blink of an eye too! We look forward to exploring Gingerbread through all of our senses! We will also explore what winter has to offer, what animals do during winter, and holidays that take place during the month of December. I am so excited to learn about how your family celebrates the season! Throughout all units of study we will continue to work on our letter recognition and sounds, number recognition and 1:1 counting, and patterns. We will also have a variety of activities to challenge our problem solving skills and continue working on our fine motor skills. Have a safe

and happy holiday season!

Kaitlyn Pecherkiewicz

### **3's Class - Beech**



In November, the students in Beech found new center activities on the shelves. These new lessons are loosely based on the Montessori Practical Life exercises. Children have opportunities to pour water from a measuring cup into a bottle using a funnel and also from a small pitcher into a cup. In addition, the helper of the day uses the watering can to water our plant. Students use a hand broom and dust pan to clean up crumbs from snack. They can also use a small spoon to transfer lentils from one bowl to another. The children enjoy these types of activities because they are real and useful. I like them because it helps the children become independent, fully functioning members of our classroom society. Having your child do these same types of activities at home (plus others such as: cutting vegetables and fruits for meals or snacks, folding towels, and making their bed), allows them to feel as though he (or she) has something useful to contribute. They will feel proud, respected, and trusted. Practical Life lessons provide a means for refining large and small muscle coordination and helps develop a sense of order and concentration. Studies have shown that repeated motor movements develop pathways to the brain that help children learn.

In December we will be focusing on gingerbread men and discussing our family holiday traditions.

Patti Mauldin

### **3's Class - Maple**



November went by so quickly as we were busy learning about family and Thanksgiving! With the holiday season fast approaching, we will be exploring the different ways our friends and families celebrate as well as learning about winter and gingerbread! Throughout December, we will be reviewing our colors, shapes, and numbers up to 10 while we continue to focus on the letters J and K. We look forward to lots of outdoor fun as well!

Lesley Perlberg

### Outdoor Class - Pine



In November, the Pine class learned about the squirrels we see so often in our garden. We also talked about gratitude and what makes our hearts happy. December will be all about birds! We will also make holiday gifts for our families and enjoy a class holiday party.

Laurel Cline

### Messy Monday and Sweetgum Classes

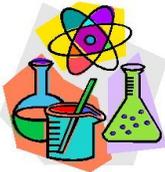


November went by quickly as we studied rocks, turkeys, and bears. We got to experience every kind of weather day – sunny, snowy, rainy, and windy – often in just one day! This group seems to find joy in it all, which I love! December always goes quickly as we only have a few weeks to make holiday gifts and enjoy the excitement of the season. We will get to know our evergreens which gives me a chance to share some of my favorite books. We will spend a little time learning about reindeers and how to identify one of their favorite foods, lichen. On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> we will have a special day of games, crafts, and a snack. We will continue to spend most of our days outside!

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand in the cold.” -Aristotle

Carol Juergemeier

### STEM



Students enjoyed learning about light in November. They learned why we have shadows and made a turkey puppet to create shadows with a flashlight. The STEM cart was full of opportunities to experiment with light including materials that were translucent, transparent, and opaque. Prisms, lenses, and mirrors also allowed students to see how light can bend and move. The November light materials will be available to all students for further exploration during December.

Emily Johnson

### Music



We have been busy drumming and learning about rhythm and steady beat. In November, students created a turkey tambourine to play. Students will continue to learn new songs in December and identify rhythms and beats.

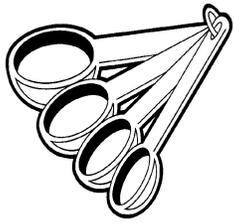
Lesley Perlberg



### **Creative Movement**

Did your child ask to play “Turkey Tag” over the Thanksgiving Break? All classes played Turkey tag using wooden clothespins with feathers attached to their coats. We tried to capture each other’s turkey feather without losing our own. We had fun running in the grass or tromping through the snow with turkey feathers.

Emily Johnson



### **Healthy Habits**

Have you thought about having your preschooler helping you prepare meals? There are many benefits of cooking together including: practicing counting skills by counting out ingredients, pouring ingredients for fine motor skill practice, talking about a recipe to build vocabulary, increasing familiarity with new foods to help entice picky eaters, and following simple directions.

#### **Ways Preschoolers Can Help in the Kitchen:**

- Wash fruits and veggies
- Tear lettuce for salads
- Stir ingredients together in a mixing bowl
- Pour water or milk into measuring cups with assistance
- Help you read the recipe by turning the pages
- With your help, beat eggs or mash potatoes with an electric mixer
- Sprinkle cheese or salt and pepper onto a dish
- Fill measuring spoons or cups and pour contents into mixing bowl with assistance